



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**HON. TED MORTON**  
LEGISLATOR

County Executive Mark Poloncarz  
95 Franklin Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

March 24, 2016

Executive Poloncarz,

I wanted to follow up with you regarding the New Stadium Working Group. As you may recall, I sent you a letter on May 19, 2014 (enclosed for your reference) regarding my concerns that the New Stadium Working Group's meetings were closed to the public. Unfortunately, you did not reply to my letter.

In a Buffalo News article dated March 24, 2016, it was stated by Team President Russ Brandon that the New Stadium Working Group had been "suspended". With the recent news that the NFL is pushing the Buffalo Bills for a new stadium, the suspension of the group's efforts is without explanation and to my knowledge was never announced publically until this week. This group was highly touted by you and the Bills organization as a vehicle to deciding what the next step should be regarding a future stadium. The suspension of this group comes as a bit of a surprise.

I believe the public needs more answers on the current status of the New Stadium Working Group. If its work has been halted, why? If the New Stadium Working Group isn't doing the work it was created to do, where exactly is this conversation heading?

My previous concerns that the New Stadium Working Group's activities weren't open and transparent seem to have a foundation. I believe the public would appreciate further information on where the New Stadium Working Group stands. As always I appreciate the effort put in by the administration to finalize the current lease, however that lease called for the creation of a New Stadium Working Group that would explore the possibility of a new stadium for the Bills in Erie County or further renovation of the current stadium. Most importantly, we share concerns over the use of taxpayer funding in the stadium and going forward that would be a major factor. It was my understanding that the New Stadium Working Group was a critical component to identifying the next step and the suspension of this group leaves many unanswered questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Ted Morton", is written over a horizontal line.

Ted Morton  
Erie County Legislator

CC:  
Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Honorable Patrick Gallivan  
Honorable Michael Kearns



# ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. TED MORTON  
LEGISLATOR

County Executive Mark Poloncarz  
95 Franklin Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Buffalo, NY 14202

May 19, 2014

Executive Poloncarz,

With the recent passing of Ralph Wilson, Jr., it is now imperative that all levels of government work to examine the idea of a new stadium in Erie County, in the most transparent way possible.

As I'm sure you are aware, the New Stadium Working Group and the Erie County Stadium Corp. has recently come under criticism for keeping portions of the meetings closed to the public. Your office recently mentioned that they are in compliance with portions of the Open Meetings Law, but to my knowledge there has been a lack of communication to the public regarding the date and time of these meetings. With high levels of public interest in a new stadium, I believe it is essential to our constituents that this group comply with the law to keep the public informed on the developments regarding a new stadium. I am in full support of Senator Patrick Gallivan and Assemblyman Michael Kearns in their efforts to pass legislation requiring the New Stadium Working Group fully comply with the Open Meetings Law (S7219/A9454).

I urge you, on behalf of all of the constituents we serve, to push the New Stadium Working Group and the Erie County Stadium Corp. to comply with the Open Meetings Law and to keep the public apprised of the date and time of meetings. If the taxpayers of Erie County are expected to help finance a new stadium, they have a right to a seat at the table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "T. Morton", written over a horizontal line.

Legislator Ted Morton  
8<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

CC:  
Honorable Andrew Cuomo  
Honorable Patrick Gallivan  
Honorable Michael Kearns